



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY ENCOURAGES CITIZENS TO RECYCLE CHRISTMAS TREES

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley today encouraged people to recycle their Christmas trees to help protect the environment. This is especially important because discarded trees take up limited landfill space.

“There are many uses for Christmas trees after they have brightened our homes through the holiday season,” Easley said. “We can protect and enhance the environment by recycling them to be used in landscaping, as mulch or to help protect our coastline and other natural habitats.”

The N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources suggests the following tips for recycling your Christmas tree:

- **Turn your tree into mulch.** Chop or grind smaller branches for wood chips and bundle larger branches for protective mulch around newly planted perennials and small shrubs. Remember to remove the branches in the spring, when the plants begin to grow again. Also, many communities will pick up discarded trees and chip them for free after Christmas.
- **Put your tree in the landscape on your property.** Officials with the N.C. Division of Forest Resources recommend throwing leaves over the tree to provide cover for birds and small mammals. Remember to remove tinsel, plastic and anything else that is not recyclable.
- **Take the tree to the coast and help protect against beach erosion.** The N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation will collect Christmas trees at Hammocks Beach and Fort Macon state parks. The trees are placed sideways along a plastic fence to collect sand, which stabilizes sand dunes and reduces beach erosion. Be sure to contact the park before you arrive to make sure someone is on duty to collect the tree.
- **Offer your tree to a farm pond owner.** By sinking and anchoring your Christmas tree in a pond, you can make an attractive habitat and nesting ground for fish.

To learn more about recycling and ways to reduce waste, visit the N.C. Division of Pollution Prevention and Environment Assistance website at <http://www.p2pays.org/>

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